

the single-largest philanthropic donation ever made to WSU's Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture, and it will go towards building the brand new, state-of-the-art Schweitzer Engineering Hall at WSU's campus in Pullman, Wash.

Dr. Schweitzer is a WSU alumnus and former professor who has participated in years of research collaborations with the university. He is also the founder of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, which is Washington's 5th Congressional District's largest private employer.

Since its founding, SEL has employed hundreds of Washington State Cougars, including nearly 450 currently working at the company. This historic contribution represents an exciting new chapter in a long-standing and successful partnership between WSU and SEL that will undoubtedly contribute to new learning opportunities for the next generation of leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

I am incredibly proud of the leadership at WSU and SEL, and I am grateful to call the Schweitzers my friends. Their generous contributions and unwavering commitment to the future leaders of our nation is vital to ushering in a new era of innovation that will take America to new heights.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this historic partnership and the tremendous impact it will have for students in Eastern Washington. I wish them nothing but success as they embark on this journey together.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Small Business Week, which is being held this year from May first to the seventh. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and provide so many Americans with the means to live their own American Dream.

In my district, Pennsylvania's Eleventh, over half of all workers are employed by small businesses. At the age of seventeen, I became a small business owner and built the company over twenty-five years to employ hundreds in family-sustaining jobs.

I know firsthand how important it is to support a pro-small business environment, allowing them to thrive. I support policies that create opportunities for our country's small business owners to take risks with the knowledge that their success means success for the entire community.

America's free enterprise system and entrepreneurial spirit have allowed so many to start their own small business and live their American Dream.

As we recognize National Small Business Week, we congratulate and show gratitude to all those entrepreneurs across our district and country. In addition, we thank the employees of the Small Business Administration who have helped business owners in Pennsylvania's Eleventh District access vital aid throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They have been a reliable resource to my staff, and we are thankful for their work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MILLARD OAKLEY

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the late Millard Vaughn Oakley, one of the greatest Tennesseans I have ever known. He passed away on April 21 after an extraordinary ninety-one years of life. He was a faithful husband, a loving father and grandfather, an exemplary public servant, and a passionate believer in his small town and the surrounding region. His legacy will live on in our state's history for generations.

He was born May 11, 1930, in Overton County, where he resided his entire life. Mr. Oakley was the son of the late T.M. and Cordia Vaughn Oakley and was the youngest of seven children. He graduated from Livingston Academy in 1947, then attended Tennessee Technological University, and earned a law degree from the Cumberland School of Law in 1951. He then went on to practice law for about 18 years and embarked on a lifetime of public service.

Millard served one term to the Constitutional Convention, four terms as a State Representative, and four terms as Overton County Attorney. His law experience brought him here to Washington in 1971, where he served as General Counsel for the U.S. House Select Committee on Small Business for two years before moving back to the Volunteer State to serve as State Insurance Commissioner from 1975 to 1979.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Oakley was a business leader who played a key role in the economic development of the Upper Cumberland region. He started in life as a shoeshine on the Livingston Square and checked out as a multi-millionaire, chasing the excitement of the next great business deal, opportunity, or challenge.

If you took a trip to Overton County, you wouldn't have to look far to find someone directly blessed by Mr. Oakley. That is certainly true for me.

A lifetime ago, he became friends with my grandfather, Guy Williams from Fentress County. I admired my grandfather a great deal and learned much from him. Grandpa Williams was the consummate entrepreneur. He had successes and failures, but the latter never slowed him down. It is likely the reason he and Mr. Oakley hit it off so well. When my grandfather passed away, I lost a great mentor.

Years later, I became acquainted with my grandfather's old friend, Millard Oakley. Instinctively, I was drawn to him, and he was kind enough to show me the courtesy of being interested in my life. Eventually, a friendship grew out of an acquaintance and later this friend became one of my most trusted mentors and advisers.

We come from opposing political parties. I am a Conservative Republican. He was a Southern Democrat, but that never impeded his willingness to encourage me or hear me out. Our debates and disagreements were always cordial. There was never a time when I did not glean something valuable from a conversation I had with him. He cared and believed in me, and that meant the world. Count-

less Tennesseans would say the same about this mighty man. There was not a person in the entire town who Mr. Oakley did not endeavor to know. Whether you were the gas station clerk, a sheriff's deputy, or a student—you mattered to Millard Oakley.

What I will always miss is his most sincere compassion. He gave life to the dreams of many. His generosity will live on through his numerous funds and scholarships to multiple schools and foundations. You'll find many buildings at Cumberland University and Tennessee Tech bearing the name Oakley for their strong support of higher education. In 2015, the Oakleys donated Hartsaw Cove Farm, equaling about 1,400 acres in size, along with the farm livestock and equipment, to Tennessee Tech. That gift was estimated to be worth more than \$9 million.

As you venture down Interstate 40 in Cookeville and exit to State Route 111, you will find yourself on "Millard Vaughn Oakley Parkway," the main thoroughfare into the town so dearly loved by this treasure of a Tennessean. Up that State Route, you will find an impressive public library giving children and adults access to thousands of books and a new, magnificent county building, each made possible by Mr. and Mrs. Oakley.

You will also see a modest office in a single-story office complex, which is also home to the local radio station bearing his name, where he worked most days he was in town. You will also see First National Bank—his bank and a major employer in the region. It was through his financial institutions that he helped several small business owners expand and thrive.

Today, I sit in the emptiness of loss. I grieve in the void left by a giant. There is no replacing Millard Oakley, only honoring him by being better, doing better, and leaving this world a little better. In memory of a great Tennessean, who did it better than anyone I have ever known, I pray that we will each take up the mantle and leave our communities a little better than we found them.

SCORE FOR SMALL BUSINESS ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6450 the SCORE for Small Business Act of 2022 which would:

reauthorize \$13.5 million for the program for two years;

ensure the SBA prevents abuse and misuse of funds; and

expand counseling and training programs to provide online webinars, electronic mentoring platforms and online toolkits to better serve small businesses.

The SCORE program provides vital mentoring and education programs for business owners and entrepreneurs.

SCORE is dedicated to helping small business owners plan, launch, manage and grow their businesses. The programs volunteers also give continuous advice and support to the firms.

Almost 97 percent of businesses in the greater Houston area have fewer than 500

employees—the standard to be considered a small business—and these collectively employ 44 percent of the region's workforce, about 1.2 million people.

Houston adds more than 9,200 new startups annually. In 2021 startups attracted a record \$753 million in venture capital funding, up from \$702 million in 2019.

The creation of small businesses in Houston is likely to keep growing. Last year, real estate investment group Roofstock released a report ranking Houston among the Nation's top 10 metros for startup formation.

Houston also ranks number 5 among the nation's largest metro areas when it comes to the percentage of minority-owned startups.

Nearly 5,600 startups in the Houston area are minority-owned or about 30 percent of all companies less than two years old.

Together, these minority businesses employ more than 22,700 workers in the region.

But in a region where minorities make up 64 percent of the population, clear inequities in entrepreneurship remain in Houston that mirror the rest of the Nation.

There are currently close to 170,000 minority-owned startups in the U.S. employing more than 700,000 workers and generating close to \$100 billion in annual revenue.

Nationally, Hispanics represent about 18 percent of the population but just 7 percent of startup owners. For Black Americans, those figures diminish to just 12 percent and 3 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, Non-Hispanic Whites make up 60 percent of the U.S. population but own nearly 80 percent of the nation's startups.

Mr. Speaker, the reauthorization of the SCORE program funding is essential to the thousands of minorities and women entrepreneurs in this country.

People who have been historically disadvantaged are the people who benefit most from programs like SCORE and we must ensure that they continue to receive assistance.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 6450 the SCORE for Small Business Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL DAWSON'S DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE TO VIRGINIA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carol Dawson for her service to this country and to Virginia's First Congressional District. Carol served in several positions in the Department of Energy during the Reagan administration, served across numerous Boards in Virginia, and most recently as a prominent member of the Lancaster County Republican Party Committee. Carol's dedication to service and to citizen-leadership is an inspiration to others and I am thankful for her tireless efforts for Virginia's First District.

Carol has worked tirelessly, not only as a federal employee, but also as a state and civil servant. Carol served on the board of directors of the National Conservative Campaign, as well as a member of the Virginia Racing Commission under former Virginia Governor McDonnell. When I was informed that Carol

would be leaving Virginia's First District to move closer to her family in Florida, I was saddened that this district would be losing an outstanding citizen.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me today to recognize Carol Dawson and her dedication to the constituents of Virginia's First District. Carol has and continues to live a wonderful life, and I wish her the best of luck on her future journey in life.

CONGRATULATING JEANNINE TRUSWELL ON HER RETIREMENT AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF UNITED WAY OF WELD COUNTY

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of Jeannine Truswell, who announced that she would be retiring after 36 years with the United Way of Weld County. Her fierce commitment and vision have improved the lives of countless members of the Weld County community.

Jeannine began her tenure as the President and CEO of the United Way of Weld County in 1986, after seven years as the Executive Director of the Weld County Partners Mentoring Youth program. When she took over the organization, its annual fundraising was a little over \$500,000. Through her tireless work and determination, the United Way of Weld County now raises almost \$5 million annually. In 2011, Jeannine launched Weld Project Connect, a yearly, one-day initiative hosted through the United Way that has served over 8600 people. This program brings awareness to problems in the local community, coordinates governmental agencies, and seeks to inspire Weld County citizens to help one another.

Over the years, Jeannine has guided countless service projects, genuinely connecting and engaging with volunteers as they participated in various events. With Jeannine at the helm of United Way, her focused mission of selfless service has brought positive community-wide solutions through projects and partnerships, including the Weld County Child Abuse Coalition and Founding 211 Colorado. Further, Jeannine has received recognition as A Women's Place Outstanding Women of Weld County and BizWest's Most Influential Business Leader and Woman of Distinction.

On behalf of the Fourth District of Colorado, I extend my congratulations to Jeannine for her honorable service to the people of Weld County.

HONORING THE MILITARY MEDICAL TEAM THAT SERVED AT THE ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER (ECMC)

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today we recognize the exceptional mem-

bers of the Military Medical Team completing a mission at Erie County Medical Center (ECMC).

During their time in Buffalo, New York, this team of dedicated and talented physicians, nurses, respiratory technicians, and support members have extended great compassion, risked their own health, and provided life-saving care to our friends, family, and neighbors.

Western New York was one of several deployments made by this unit through a Department of Defense effort providing assistance to civilian hospitals in over 100 cities across the nation since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Time and again, members of the United States military answer the call when our country and our people are in need.

Frontline healthcare workers here at ECMC and throughout the nation have made great sacrifices throughout the pandemic.

We are deeply grateful to these members of the United States Navy for the expertise and support they provided during this national health emergency.

Our community and country are healthier, safer and stronger thanks to their service.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CRAIG SALO

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Craig Salo for his service as the Marquette County Veterans Service Officer and the Head of Marquette County Department of Veteran Affairs. Through his tireless work and steadfast devotion to our Veterans and local communities, Craig has become an indispensable part of the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

Craig Salo was born in Republic, Michigan, and graduated from Northern Michigan University in Marquette. In December 1991, he was commissioned by the U.S. Army as a Distinguished Military Graduate and attended the Infantry Officer Basic Course in Fort Benning, Georgia. Following the end of his training, he served as a Rifle Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer in the 4th Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment in Sandhofen, Germany. In addition to being deployed in both Afghanistan and Iraq, Craig went on to serve 22 years in the U.S. Army and retired as the U.S. Army Africa G2-X Division Chief in 2014.

Following his retirement from the military, Craig was hired as the first-ever Marquette County Veterans Service Officer and Head of the local Department of Veteran Affairs. Under his outstanding leadership, the Marquette County Department of Veteran Affairs has proudly served many of our Michigan Veterans, and his work has led to the establishment of many local Veteran programs including the creation of the Marquette County Phone App and a transportation network for retired servicemembers. His efforts have greatly benefited the local Veteran community and will certainly inspire future successors of the position.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Craig Salo for his years of service to our country and his diligent work for our Veterans and community. Michiganders can take great